

May 7th, 2001

Issue 8 of the EPSQ Electronic News service

Please pass this information along to a colleague.

CURRENT NEWS

****** TRANSFER of ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL SECURITY INVESTIGATION
WORKLOAD to the OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (OPM)**

Please immediately read Transfer of Additional Personnel Security Investigation Workload to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) dated April 30, 2001 located at <http://www.dss.mil/epsq/>.

At the direction of the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence (C3I), DSS will not process any investigation request that should have been sent to OPM according to the guidance in the above referenced memo, effective May 21, 2001. As noted in the memo, this is a temporary action to allow DSS to reduce the pending investigative workload and lapse times to more acceptable levels.

The only cases DSS will accept are Industrial/Contractor requests for collateral access and US Army/Coast Guard Entrance National Agency Checks (ENTNACs).

Due to resource considerations, DSS will not return misrouted EPSQs, signed releases or fingerprint cards to the sender, nor will they be forwarded to OPM.

Military service requesters should refer to service implementation guidance which is forthcoming. Additional Instructions regarding Which Industry Investigations Go To OPM and Submitting Industry SCI/SAP Personnel to OPM have also been posted on <http://www.dss.mil/epsq/>.

This guidance is expected to remain in place through the end of Calendar Year 2001.

****** DOD SECURITY CLEARANCE/ACCESS INVESTIGATIVE PRIORITIES**

Last Fall, the Fiscal Year 2001 Defense Authorization Bill, under 10 U.S.C. 1564, directed DoD to establish a process for expediting the completion of background investigations for DoD personnel as well as DoD contractor employees engaged in sensitive duties that are critical to the national security.

In response, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Security and Information Operations) convened two meetings with the various DoD Components to develop a more current and realistic listing of DoD mission critical priorities. The result of those meetings is the tiered list of investigative priorities attached to the DoD Security Clearance/Access Investigative Priorities memo dated December 26, 2000 which can be found at

<http://www.dss.mil/epsq/>. Tier I receives the highest priority. This list supersedes the existing 78 special project codes and will serve as the official DoD investigative priority policy. Expected Questions and corresponding Answers regarding this prioritization policy are also provided for your information at <http://www.dss.mil/epsq/>.

Effective immediately, all requesters will use the list mentioned above when submitting priority investigations to DSS. Requests for investigation citing superseded special project codes will no longer receive priority.

The success of this effort is largely dependent on the deployment of the new DSS Electronic Personnel Security Questionnaire (EPSQ) Version 2.2 which was released on April 30, 2001. EPSQ 2.2 includes a two-position data field in the Certify screen which will accommodate the priority designations identified in the tiered list of investigative priorities. Please note that this data field is annotated:

Special Project Code
(Not required unless applicable).

All future additions or deletions to the attached list of DoD priority investigative categories will be determined by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Security and Information Operations) in coordination with the DoD Components. Please direct any questions you may have to your cognizant Security Office.

NOTEWORTHY

******* In case you didn't already know.... EPSQ Version 2.2 was released on Monday, April 30th. Please visit <http://www.dss.mil/epsq/> to download this latest version.

****** We are aware of a problem that customers are finding when they update a previous version of EPSQ Security Officer edition with the 2.2 Security Officer edition patch.

Version 2.2 fixed an error that allowed users to select User IDs with more than 9 characters. This means that if a previous Security Officer edition of EPSQ had a User ID with 10 or more characters, a problem arises when the patch is applied. Security Officers that only have User ID(s) with 10 or more characters will be unable to access their EPSQ program after the 2.2 patch is applied.

If a Security Officer has a User ID with 10 or more characters, he or she should do the following before applying the 2.2 patch.

a) In EPSQ 2.1.1, go to Utilities/System Administration/Security officer user

b) Add an additional Security Officer user that has a User ID with less than 10 characters

After applying the patch, access the newly upgraded EPSQ 2.2 by using the new User ID that has less than 10 characters. You can then create additional User IDs, with less than 10 characters, if you choose.

THE EPSQ PROJECT TEAM HAS DEVELOPED A FIX TO THIS PROBLEM FOR THOSE WHO UPGRADED BEFORE RECEIVING THE NOTICE ABOVE. WE WILL POST THIS FIX AS A FAQ FOUND AT <http://www.dss.mil/epsq/> BY MAY 8TH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

*** T**hanks for your support... Our EPSQ Enews reader list has grown to over 6500 names.

*** C**heck out our Enews Archives at <http://www.dss.mil/eneews/archive/archive.htm>

TIPS OF THE DAY

- When installing the new EPSQ version 2.2 please be aware that the installation program uses a default install directory of c:\epsq2xso (Security Officer Edition) and c:\epsq2xsu (Subject Edition). If you are applying the patch for version 2.2 and you do not have your current installation in the default directory, you should change the directory when installing the patch to your current installation location.

- Please be sure to visit our web site at <http://www.dss.mil/epsq/>. Some of the resources you will find there include: EPSQ Software, Important News & Notes, Worksheets (SF86, SF85P, SF85PS), LOC & Receipt System, FAQs, Documentation, and On-Line User Guides.

We hope you found this information useful. As always if you have questions or comments you can contact us by email at epsq_questions@mail.dss.mil, complete our Feedback form at <http://www.dss.mil/contactus/feedback.epsq.htm> or call us at 1-800-542-0237.

Thank You.

**EPSQ Project Office
DSS.**